

The Sun

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The Vice-Presidency.

If there is any man who thinks or who gives out that he deems the exalted office of Vice-President of the United States beneath his dignity, unworthy of his ambitions or inadequate to his deserts, he should be accommodated willingly by the refusal of the Republican National Convention to give any consideration to his name as a candidate for nomination.

If there is any man who wants to be persuaded to take such a nomination, on the ground that by taking it he would be making a self-sacrifice for which he should receive honor, that man also should be dismissed from consideration as a possible candidate.

For political reasons it seems to be desirable that the Republican candidate for Vice-President on the ticket with Mr. McKinley should be from New York; but he must be a man who esteems the office and the honor of a nomination to it at their true and great value. In the Republican party of this State there is no deficiency in the supply of men of great abilities and distinguished public services who do not think or pretend to think that the office which is next to the highest in the gift of the American people, an office which has been held by men like JEFFERSON, ADAMS, VAN BUREN, HAMILTON, WILSON, ARTHUR, MORTON and HOBART, is beneath their dignity and of a consequence too little for their worth.

The Population of New York.

The taking of the census of the population of the city of New York has been completed, but the returns have yet to be tabulated at Washington, so that necessarily there will be much delay before the result is announced.

Comparisons made on the basis of the increase in the population of specific districts, however, indicate that the rate of growth during the last ten years has been very great and these indications are confirmed by the observation of people who have had occasion to keep watch of the development of Manhattan in its surprising march to the northward and of Brooklyn in nearly every direction.

The estimates now made give the consolidated New York a population of more than three millions and a half, or a growth in the ten years since 1890 of more than one million and a percentage of increase exceeding 45 per cent.

The population of the city at the different decades of the century has been:

1800.....	60,430	1850.....	813,660
1810.....	95,373	1860.....	942,292
1820.....	123,736	1870.....	1,206,229
1830.....	202,249	1880.....	1,510,301
1840.....	312,710	1890 (est'd).....	3,700,000
1850.....	515,347		

Of course, the extraordinarily great proportionate increase between 1890 and 1900 is explained by the consolidation of the city with Brooklyn and other outlying territory, but on the estimates of the present population the percentage of growth in each of the boroughs during the last decade has been wonderful. Brooklyn has increased in the ten years to about 1,270,000 or about fifty per cent.

Free Speech in the Canadian House of Commons.

Of late Canadian newspapers have been discussing a speech made in the Ottawa House of Commons by Mr. BOUASSA, an influential French-Canadian who is one of Sir WILFRED LAURIER's zealous supporters in the Province of Quebec. Mr. BOUASSA declared that the war in South Africa had not added an ounce to the glory of Britain, and proceeded to denounce Mr. CHAMBERLAIN as the author of a needless contest. The expression of these opinions provoked an explosion of indignation and disgust on the part of the Conservative Opposition. The chamber resounded with angry disclaimers, with hisses, and even with cries of "Shame!" The Premier, Sir WILFRED LAURIER, said that he did not concur in Mr. BOUASSA's views, but he claimed for the latter, as a member of the Dominion Parliament, the Constitutional right to say what he thought. Canadians, he added, owed allegiance to the Queen, but not to her British Ministers, and it would be strange, indeed, if to a Canadian legislator at Ottawa were denied the privilege of free criticism which is conceded to the British legislator at Westminster.

Naturally, the comments on this incident differ widely, according as they emanate from newspaper representatives of the Conservatives on the one hand, or from organs of the Liberal Government on the other. For example, the *Mail and Empire* of Toronto, which is the prominent upholder of Conservatism in the Province of Ontario, while not in terms disputing the right of free speech in Parliament, justifies the outburst of remonstrance with which Mr. BOUASSA's remarks were received. The *Mail and Empire* asserts that the right of freedom of speech involves the right to howl down an objectionable speaker; it does not define what the liberty of utterance would be worth under such circumstances. It practically maintains the paradox that the right to silence a speaker is as sacred as the right to let him speak. "Every day of the week," it says, "in every Parliament of the world, it is the privilege of members to cheer sentiments of which they approve, and to protest against sentiments which they regard as wrong. It is a right which appertains especially to British legislators." But, adds the *Mail and Empire*, "it seems that, when the *Mail and Empire* rises to cast vile aspersions upon the British flag, to detract from the glory of those who have fought and died for the British Crown, and to proclaim to his compatriots that Britain is dishonest, unjust and cruel, the right to object disappears, and every loyal member must be dumb. Here," it concludes, "is a man speaking in the great assembly of a nation. His words go forth as words uttered in our Parliament. Should they pass to the world absolutely unchallenged, and, apparently, approved? Would this be speech truly free, or would it be an undisputed utterance on behalf of Krugerism?" Evidently the position taken by the *Mail and Empire* could not be easily disproved. Beyond doubt, the right of freedom of speech involves the right of dissent. The *Globe* of Toronto, which is, of course, a Liberal organ, does not dispute the right of members of the Ottawa Parliament to protest against opinions which they do not share. But why, it asks, is their indignation so rampant when certain views of the war in South Africa are expressed at Ottawa by a friend of Sir WILFRED LAURIER, when they acquiesce complacently in the utterance of views precisely similar by Conservative opponents of Sir WILFRED in the Province of Quebec? Why waste so much indignation, it adds, on Mr. BOUASSA, when not a word of protest appeared in any Conservative organ against the declaration lately made by the *Trifurca*, which is a French-Canadian supporter of Sir CHARLES TUPPER? The *Trifurca* said that, in despatching Canadian contingents to South Africa, Sir WILFRED LAURIER had "sacrificed the sweat of our workmen, the blood of our children." The *Globe* also inquires why the *Mail and Empire* does not denounce the position taken by L'Événement, another French-Canadian newspaper in the Province of Quebec which upholds the Conservative Opposition. L'Événement recently said: "Is it necessary for French-Canadians to play the rôle of slaves in order to prove their loyalty to England, and to merit the delightful friendship of the English in Canada? Must we be guided in our thoughts by our mistress—England—espouse all her quarrels, just or unjust, furnish targets for her enemies' guns, applaud her damnable acts, and proclaim a victory when our army suffers defeat?" The *Globe* also wonders why the *Mail and Empire* does not undertake to muzzle Mr. THIBAUT, a conspicuous French-Canadian, who happens to be a friend of Sir CHARLES TUPPER's, but who "blamed LAURIER strongly for supporting England in a war against a brave little people like the Boers, who are struggling with courage and patriotism for the liberty of their country and the defence of their firesides." Mr. THIBAUT accused LAURIER "of being the instrument of CHAMBERLAIN and RHODES. The war," he added, "was an act of brigandage."

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To the careful reader of Canadian newspapers, it appears that vehement disapproval of the despatch of Canadian contingents to assist England against the Boers is not confined to any one faction among the French-speaking inhabitants of the Province of Quebec, but is well-nigh universal, the principal exception being Sir WILFRED LAURIER himself.

No Justice in St. Louis.

St. Louis's success in defending itself against the union of law breakers that have for more than a month attempted with all forms of outrage to prevent the running of the street cars, will be in vain unless she stands by the men who have bravely stood at the front of conflict, the new employees of the railroad.

They veritably have taken their lives in their hands while engaging themselves to operate the cars. Some of them the strikers have killed, others have been crippled. To those who survive must fairly be given the very first consideration when the strikers ask what they call a "settlement." One condition of the new men, all or some, shall be discharged in the strikers' favor.

These new employees are American citizens, honorably at work earning their livelihood. To discharge them wantonly, that is for any other than the legitimate and recognized causes for which employers discharge employees, would be at all times a despotism and deserving of emphatic condemnation. Under the present circumstances it would be an outrage only little less gross than those of which the strikers themselves are guilty.

If, when these strikers were faithfully performing their duties, the railroad company had summarily locked them out for no other reason than that a band of highwaymen demanded their places with threats of riot and boycott the employees would have howled with indignation, and appealed for sympathy from the general public. Such manner of discharge would have been dastardly, and all decency and fair play would have been denounced. It should never be tolerated in any American town.

Consequently the entire public of St. Louis should protest with one voice and loudly against any so-called settlement of the strike involving the discharge of a single new employee. To compromise with the criminals who have made St. Louis bedlam would be to surrender; to commit an act of injustice on other men in compromising would be a crime.

A Problem of Sunday Transportation.

A rather curious question in regard to the strict observance of Sunday is suggested by the arrangements made by certain members of the Society of Christian Endeavor with the officers of certain railroads. One hundred and fifty Endeavorers had contracted with the railroad officers for a special train from Chicago to Boston. The railroad men had arranged that the train should leave Chicago at 10:30 P. M., July 1, and fall on a Sunday. The Christian Endeavorers are conscientiously opposed to travel and work on Sunday except we assume, in cases of absolute necessity. They manifested with the railroad people, and the latter agreed to furnish them with a special train scheduled to leave Chicago at 12:01 A. M., on Monday, July 2.

Nobody should fail to respect conscientious convictions as to Sunday observance. There are millions of persons in this country who will put themselves to considerable inconvenience and expense for the sake of avoiding travel on Sunday. But sometimes it is hard to say whether more than a formal escape from the difficulty has been made. Take, for instance, this train departing from Chicago at 12:01 Monday morning. Technically it will not break the day of rest. Actually it will cause labor on that day. Various railroad men will have to make the preparations and get the train ready. Almost all the work will have to be done on Sunday. The Endeavorers themselves will have to ride in cars or on cabs to the station on Sunday. Even if they are consistent or careless enough of fatigue to walk, their baggage will be the cause of Sunday labor for expressmen and transfer companies. Porters and chambermaids and clerks and waiters in hotels and boarding houses will have additional Sunday work on account of the departure of these guests, and all the Sunday work brought about by the preparations for the special train will be unnecessary, for the passengers could just as well wait for a later train. The special train should leave at a considerably later hour than 12:01 A. M. These

Christian Endeavorers, whose sincerity we honor, will not avoid unnecessary Sunday labor by providing that their train shall not start until after midnight. In fact, it is impossible, especially in this country of vast distances, for even the strictest believers in the strictest observance of Sunday to do more than make some sort of compromise with their consciences if they travel. In large cities the case is the same. A considerable part of the population must be taken on Sunday to provide transportation for the rest. It is only in the village, and not always there in the case of persons living in the outlying districts, that some reflection of the old Scottish or New England Sunday can still be seen.

News, and the Thieving of News.

The *SUN* has had virtually no competitor in gathering the news from the seat of war in South Africa. All the leading journals in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe have depended on the *SUN*'s correspondents for their earliest intelligence of it. From those correspondents, and from them almost exclusively, have the newspapers of the civilized world derived their first knowledge of the great critical episodes of the Boer war. The English and the Continental papers have been supplied with this news from the *SUN*'s London office, and they have not only paid for it handsomely, but they have made generous acknowledgment of its excellence, and, above all, of its trustworthiness. This last they have done in a degree the like of which was never known before in the history of news gathering.

The same news has been supplied by the Associated Press to the newspapers of this country, but it was neither paid for nor acknowledged. It was simply stolen.

The Associated Press stole the *SUN*'s news from Pekin yesterday and some of its clients in this city, the *World* for instance, did not wait for the Associated Press to steal it for them, but stole it for themselves. The Associated Press is stealing the *SUN*'s news to-day and it will steal it to-morrow.

For months the *SUN*'s South African despatches have been stolen by the Associated Press, just as our despatches from Manila were stolen when matters there were moving and the *SUN* alone had the news of them. All the newspapers of the country have published these despatches, and so far as we have seen not one of them has had a word of reprobation for the theft or a touch of squeamishness or shame at being made the recipients of the stolen goods. It was the same during our war with Spain. The *SUN* was ahead with the news of every great event that happened; and neither the Associated Press with all its resources nor the enterprise of individual newspapers ever availed anything in competition with it. And its news was stolen every time with scarce an effort at concealment or disguise.

Perhaps it will interest the *SUN*'s readers to know that out of all this it has come to pass that the *SUN*'s agency in London for the collection and the distribution of the news of the world has achieved a reputation far greater than any ever before enjoyed by any like organization. Every great newspaper in Europe subscribes to this news, and prints it, and does so with a degree of confidence and reliance quite without precedent.

In contemplating the fashion in which our neighbors at home treat the matter, we are moved to the philosophic reflection that the possession of news which others are compelled to steal must be its own reward.

A Jolly Performance.

Paris is still stazed by an incident of the Exhibition. It has no hope of comprehending it, for it all passed away so quickly and besides was the work of those insouciant and amazing English. So there is nothing to be done but to elevate the eyebrows, shrug the shoulders and mutter "singular people" and "droll ideas of amusement" at the caravan of two thousand British workmen that fell upon the "Ville Lumière" one Saturday morning, "did" the town and the Exposition in one day and withdrew at night.

That the English people take their pleasures sadly is a well-established belief in France, which will not be dispelled by this recent manifestation. That they like to take their dismal joys gregariously is another day known, for they have seen them, the men attired in tourist caps and loud-checked "bags," the women in footgear beyond description. LUDOVIC HALÉVY, in an amusing sketch called "Deux Cyclopes," described his impression of these personally conducted companies galloping helter-skelter through French history at the Versailles galleries and rushing like a whirlwind through the Louvre collections, which they were timed to see in forty-five minutes. For many and excellent reasons Parisians do not like these parties, but the horde that has just swept upon the Exhibition has impressed them. It was big, in the first place; it was disciplined, it did strange things and there is no doubt that its coming was in some way a compliment to Paris. The size of the excursion, the short time required, and the care with which every detail was worked out has also attracted notice in England.

A Lancashire firm of soap makers has been in the habit of arranging yearly a day's excursion for its employees at its own expense. This year it decided that the excursion should be to the Paris Exposition, but without loss of working time. On a Friday afternoon at three o'clock, two thousand of their work people "of both sexes and of all ages," as M. DE BLOWITZ puts it, were started on special trains across England to Dover. They crossed the Channel on the night boats, and at Calais, after cleaning out all eatables and drinkables at the railway restaurant, were packed into third-class French cars and reached the Exposition station at eight o'clock Saturday morning. Each excursionist wore a badge bearing the name of the firm's soap and carried a book of tickets for all meals and sights provided. The French reporters thought they looked tired, but were amazed

at their silence and at the military way in which they formed into companies under their foremen.

They were marched at once to the Duval restaurants on the banks of the Seine, where a breakfast of soft-boiled eggs, cold meat, jam, coffee and beer was prepared for them. The Duval chef subsequently confessed that the cooking of three-minute eggs for two thousand people at once was the most difficult thing he had found to do. Then they had a wash-up in the open air. A row of wash basins, supplied with towels, and also, as the French newspapers admiringly observed, with soap, was arranged along the river bank, and the excursionists took their turns, while a crowd of Parisians watched them with delight from the bank above. The sight of five hundred English women doing up their hair simultaneously inspired awe and enthusiasm. "It was a striking demonstration of the unanxious English desire for cleanliness," says M. DE BLOWITZ.

After their ablutions, they were stowed away in sixty or seventy large excursion wagons, decorated with the advertisement of the soap they made, which drove into the Champs Élysées, and down the Rue de Rivoli to the Boulevard Sébastopol and back by the Grand Boulevard to the Exhibition grounds. They were preceded and accompanied by bicycle policemen to clear the way and prevent disorder. As the procession passed the crowds on the boulevard stared at it, according to the *Daily Mail*, "with an expression of amused pity." They had lunch, a delegation was sent to President LOUBET with an address, to which he replied politely, and then they were turned loose in the Exposition with directions to meet at eight o'clock at the Eiffel Tower. The French reporters noticed that many of them improved their liberty by going to sleep on the benches. For fear of trouble directions had been given that no drinks should be served to them, beyond their rations, even if they wished to pay. They had dinner, an honest English dinner—fish, leg of mutton, currant jelly, pudding, beer and speeches in English and French, and before the wicked French Sunday came were once more packed into trains and sent back on a night journey through France and another day's travelling in England to Birkenhead and home, which they reached "in time to attend evening services" and to set to work again on Monday morning.

In England the performance is looked upon as a big thing reflecting credit on all concerned. A small army has been shot to Paris and shot back in a remarkably short time, without a hitch of any kind in the arrangements. British endurance has been put to the test and has won. "For fifty solid hours they were on the go," is one comment; another is, "The travellers consumed ten tons of food." The cost of the trip to the enterprising soap makers was \$30,000, which seems even more when expressed in French money, 150,000 francs. A British demonstration has been made in Paris on a scale that has compelled attention and has been the subject of newspaper operations and has been the subject of newspaper operations and has been the subject of newspaper operations.

A Dramatic Ticket.
 The Hon. JOHN WARWICK DANIEL of Virginia is winning golden and silver opinions from the Democrats of his State. As a statesman who thinks well of himself he will be gratified but not surprised to find that his fellow citizens think well of him. Some of them nominate him for President. Perhaps they merely want to shove BRYAN out of the way, loving him less and not DANIEL more. Others name him for Vice-President. They may be more sincere. Indeed all parties in the game of compromise may be on about the same level of sincerity. Mr. DANIEL has the fervid, oratorical temperament. Flowery springs up on the stump as he walks along it, and banks of taffy border his triumphal way.

Now some of his constituents are holding flowers to his nose and feeding him with taffy. The *Franklin Times-Democrat* tells him that "he is to-day the most advanced and best-equipped statesman of this age on either continent." Cordially as he must agree with this opinion, loyalty to the Nebraska JEFFERSON will compel him to file the compliment away. Another ornament for the scrapbook is given by a correspondent of the *Richmond Times*, who makes this coldly critical estimate of the Senator:

"JOHN W. DANIEL is to his country what FOX, PITT, CHATHAM, BURKE and others were to theirs. Their intellectual strength of mind and dazzling brilliancy of eloquence was of no higher order than that possessed by these great statesmen, who stand the peer of any man in our country living or dead."

The peer even of the Peerless. According to the *Richmond Times*, more than the peer, "the superior of WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN every day in the year," but the *Journal* is prejudiced against the Colonel.

The nomination for President is out of Mr. DANIEL's reach at present, but in one respect he would be a suitable companion for Col. BRYAN. It is Mr. DANIEL's greatest happiness to be believed to look like EDWIN BOOTH. He would represent the legitimate while Col. BRYAN, leading juvenile promoters to general utility, would stand for melodrama and burlesque. BRYAN and DANIEL would be great on the billboards.

The Hon. NORMAN E. MACK'S *Buffalo Times* comes to the rescue of the Hon. JOHN JACOB LESTER of Ohio, whose "services to the people of the nation as well as to the residents of his own Congressional district have been so many and important that a great effort should be made to ensure his reelection." Acquaintances and Court d'Alone flatters please notice.

strict holds court in it in January, March, April, June, July, August, October and December—eight months out of the twelve. A continuance of such "rotation" promises to lead to its complete effacement in 1901.

The fellows who are calling upon the other fellows to rally around the republic and keep away the "empire" are as confusing as confused. Suppose that some innocent is innocent enough to trust their tale. Which shall he go to? Here are five Gopher Silver Republicans writing a letter to the country, and swearing that "it is the duty of all who love the republic to preserve it by the Democratic party." And here is the great Cryptogram Gopher, the Hon. IGNATIUS DONNELLY of Nininger, shouting to the earth and the moon that "if this nation is to live as a free republic it needs the People's party." Which is the real original republic savor, none other genuine?

By the newspaper reports about the Hon. THOMAS C. PLATT he appears to be in a state of irritation at something. We trust that he is sufficiently a philosopher to deal with the prime Republican labor in hand, the choice of a candidate for Vice-President, with the indifference to small things that becomes a politician of his class and power.

There is, however, an ugly feature reported to have developed in the situation since the disarming of the Free State burghers and the advance of the British into the Transvaal, that is the black danger. The Basutos are marauding and plundering the farms of the surrendered burghers who have given up their arms and are unprotected by the British authorities. The loyal Colonists are reported to be doing the same thing in Cape Colony, in the case of the properties of the Dutch Afrikaners who were made prisoners or surrendered, the Imperial authorities affording very inadequate protection. If not suppressed the result will be to seriously aggravate the political situation, and perhaps to carry the conflict from the Parliamentary arena into the field. Private information from Cape Colony is to the effect that the situation is very gloomy.

There are reports that the Boer leaders are negotiating for terms through their wives who remained at Pretoria; but as the result of previous proposals have only met with one invariably response, unconditional surrender, for Lord Roberts to enter at this eleventh hour into negotiations, except on that basis, would be to betray a certain anxiety as to the British position in other parts of the world.

THE TRUST THAT COMITS CRIME.

Further Discussion of the Labor Union.
 To THE EDITOR OF THE *SUN*—Sir: The views of Mr. John P. Coffin on labor unions given before the United States Industrial Commission in the *SUN* of June 10, 1900, are ultimately respected. Major Peake reported late in March that he expected to clear away all obstructions by the end of April. He appears to have succeeded, and after many years navigation is again resumed between the great lakes and Khartoum, which is now in constant communication with Cairo by rail and steamer.

The murder of two British Commissioners with their police escort at Samankundi on the south bank of the river Gambia by the Mandingoes, comes at an inopportune moment for the British authorities in West Africa. Sierra Leone, from where troops are generally sent to put down disturbances on the Gambia, has just been drawn upon for all troops available, and it is putting down the rising in Ashanti. There is, however, one advantage in dealing with the present trouble on the Gambia, which is that the river is navigable throughout a length of 250 miles for vessels drawing ten feet, so that troops can be sent up expeditiously in light-draught gunboats, or their crews can be utilized without much risk to land operations. In putting down the rising on either side of the river is so narrow that almost all parts of it are under cover of modern guns, such as would be used by war vessels operating in the stream. The Mandingoes who have committed the outrage reported are fanatical Mohammedans and among the best fighters in West Africa. Their country lies on the border of the territory of the headwaters of the Niger, the greater part of the trade of which is in their hands. They are keen traders, and in their account keeping employ the Maghribi variety of Arabic writing. The softness of their language has caused it to be spoken of as the Italian of Africa.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRMEN.

Some Statesmen Who Have Occupied That Position in Earlier Years.
 The first Republican National Convention met in Philadelphia in 1856 on June 17, and was called to order by Edwin D. Morgan of New York, afterward Governor, the permanent chairman of the convention being Henry S. Lane of Indiana. United States Senator. Among the platform of principles adopted was the Constitution, and the restoration of American power over the Territories of the United States for their government.

The Republican National Convention of 1860 was held in Chicago, and was presided over as temporary chairman by David Willont of Pennsylvania, the author of the "Willont proviso," a part of the bill presented by him to Congress, which provided for the disposal of the President to enable him to make a treaty with Mexico, then at war with the United States, and providing for the exclusion of slavery from the territory annexed by the Mexican treaty. The permanent chairman was George Ashmun of Massachusetts. The question of American sovereignty was not opposed by any one at that convention, the first held by the Republicans at which a successful Presidential ticket was nominated.

The Republican National Convention of 1864 was held in Baltimore. It was presided over by William Denison, former Governor of Ohio and afterward Postmaster-General in the Cabinet of President Lincoln. One week before the meeting of the convention a Sherman capture had occurred, one week after the convention Grant crossed the James.

The Republican National Convention of 1868 was held in Chicago, and was presided over by General, now Senator, Joseph R. Hawley of Connecticut. There was one ballot for President and five ballots for Vice-President. Senator Hawley was the second New England man to preside at a Republican National Convention.

The Republican National Convention of 1872, the second Republican convention to be held in that city, was presided over by William McKim of Philadelphia, and the permanent chairman Thomas Settle of North Carolina.

The Republican National Convention of 1880, one of the most sensationally exciting in the history of American politics, was presided over by George F. Hoar of Massachusetts. He was both temporary and permanent chairman. The convention was held in Chicago.

The Republican National Convention of 1884 was presided over by John B. Henderson of Missouri, and the platform of principles adopted was submitted to the delegates by the chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, William McKinley of Ohio. Chicago was the place.

The Republican National Convention of 1888, like the two preceding, was held in Chicago and was presided over by two chairmen chosen from States beyond the Mississippi, John M. Thurston of Nebraska being the temporary and M. E. Bates of California the permanent chairman.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Lord Roberts after the Gen. Botha has retired to Middelburg, his rear guard having been caught up and dispersed by Gen. Hamilton's mounted infantry. Gen. Baden-Powell was to arrive to-day to reinforce Lord Roberts, and a column was to start for Heidelberg to open up communications with Gen. Buller. It was hoped, would be at Standerton. From the Boer side there is no report of the recent operations, but Gen. Christian Botha, with a small force, is said to be holding Paardekop, about twenty miles from Volksrust on the railway to Johannesburg. The rest of the commandos that were at Laings Nek have gone north with their guns, probably to reinforce Gen. Botha at Middelburg, while Gen. Buller telegraphed Lord Roberts on Friday that he was still at Laings Nek. The delay there is no doubt connected with the activity of the Free State burghers south of the Vaal, and the necessity of waiting until the tunnel under the Nek is cleared for the passage of trains from Durban. According to the accounts from Cape Town the British seem to have all they can do to contain the Free State burghers in the northeast and prevent their slipping to the south and renewing their raids on the railway to the Orange River, while it does not appear that Lord Roberts is in a position to spare many more men from the front. The British losses in the field from sickness alone are estimated at an average of over 300 a week, chiefly from enteric fever and lung disease, one week's work is a double task. One of the Colonial contingents that landed 1200 strong was by the last reports reduced to only 450 effective, and the reinforcements sent out from England are not more than enough to keep the British battalions up to their ordinary strength, which is fully 25 per cent. below their war complement.

There is, however, an ugly feature reported to have developed in the situation since the disarming of the Free State burghers and the advance of the British into the Transvaal, that is the black danger. The Basutos are marauding and plundering the farms of the surrendered burghers who have given up their arms and are unprotected by the British authorities. The loyal Colonists are reported to be doing the same thing in Cape Colony, in the case of the properties of the Dutch Afrikaners who were made prisoners or surrendered, the Imperial authorities affording very inadequate protection. If not suppressed the result will be to seriously aggravate the political situation, and perhaps to carry the conflict from the Parliamentary arena into the field. Private information from Cape Colony is to the effect that the situation is very gloomy.

THE TRUST THAT COMITS CRIME.

Further Discussion of the Labor Union.
 To THE EDITOR OF THE *SUN*—Sir: The views of Mr. John P. Coffin on labor unions given before the United States Industrial Commission in the *SUN* of June 10, 1900, are ultimately respected. Major Peake reported late in March that he expected to clear away all obstructions by the end of April. He appears to have succeeded, and after many years navigation is again resumed between the great lakes and Khartoum, which is now in constant communication with Cairo by rail and steamer.

The murder of two British Commissioners with their police escort at Samankundi on the south bank of the river Gambia by the Mandingoes, comes at an inopportune moment for the British authorities in West Africa. Sierra Leone, from where troops are generally sent to put down disturbances on the Gambia, has just been drawn upon for all troops available, and it is putting down the rising in Ashanti. There is, however, one advantage in dealing with the present trouble on the Gambia, which is that the river is navigable throughout a length of 250 miles for vessels drawing ten feet, so that troops can be sent up expeditiously in light-draught gunboats, or their crews can be utilized without much risk to land operations. In putting down the rising on either side of the river is so narrow that almost all parts of it are under cover of modern guns, such as would be used by war vessels operating in the stream. The Mandingoes who have committed the outrage reported are fanatical Mohammedans and among the best fighters in West Africa. Their country lies on the border of the territory of the headwaters of the Niger, the greater part of the trade of which is in their hands. They are keen traders, and in their account keeping employ the Maghribi variety of Arabic writing. The softness of their language has caused it to be spoken of as the Italian of Africa.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRMEN.

Some Statesmen Who Have Occupied That Position in Earlier Years.
 The first Republican National Convention met in Philadelphia in 1856 on June 17, and was called to order by Edwin D. Morgan of New York, afterward Governor, the permanent chairman of the convention being Henry S. Lane of Indiana. United States Senator. Among the platform of principles adopted was the Constitution, and the restoration of American power over the Territories of the United States for their government.

The Republican National Convention of 1860 was held in Chicago, and was presided over as temporary chairman by David Willont of Pennsylvania, the author of the "Willont proviso," a part of the bill presented by him to Congress, which provided for the disposal of the President to enable him to make a treaty with Mexico, then at war with the United States, and providing for the exclusion of slavery from the territory annexed by the Mexican treaty. The permanent chairman was George Ashmun of Massachusetts. The question of American sovereignty was not opposed by any one at that convention, the first held by the Republicans at which a successful Presidential ticket was nominated.

The Republican National Convention of 1864 was held in Baltimore. It was presided over by William Denison, former Governor of Ohio and afterward Postmaster-General in the Cabinet of President Lincoln. One week before the meeting of the convention a Sherman capture had occurred, one week after the convention Grant crossed the James.

The Republican National Convention of 1868 was held in Chicago, and was presided over by General, now Senator, Joseph R. Hawley of Connecticut. There was one ballot for President and five ballots for Vice-President. Senator Hawley was the second New England man to preside at a Republican National Convention.

The Republican National Convention of 1872, the second Republican convention to be held in that city, was presided over by William McKim of Philadelphia, and the permanent chairman Thomas Settle of North Carolina.

The Republican National Convention of 1880, one of the most sensationally exciting in the history of American politics, was presided over by George F. Hoar of Massachusetts. He was both temporary and permanent chairman. The convention was held in Chicago.

The Republican National Convention of 1884 was presided over by John B. Henderson of Missouri, and the platform of principles adopted was submitted to the delegates by the chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, William McKinley of Ohio. Chicago was the place.

The Republican National Convention of 1888, like the two preceding, was held in Chicago and was presided over by two chairmen chosen from States beyond the Mississippi, John M. Thurston of Nebraska being the temporary and M. E. Bates of California the permanent chairman.

AN AMERICAN EXPLORER IN AFRICA.

Dr. Donaldson Smith of Philadelphia